

Applicant : William R. Heneveld, Sr.
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In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, at line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Serious gardeners, landscapers, and outdoor yard workers want hand tools that are comfortable. They also want tools that are adjustable for individual preferences and for multiple functions, and further that are ergonomically designed to minimize stress and injury to arms, wrists, and hands. Many hand tools are not designed this way. For example, many trowels and transplanters for planting and maintaining plants are designed so that the blade aligns with the handle. As a result, the worker must awkwardly bend his/her wrist and raise his/her elbow and upper arm when driving the blade into the ground. This causes the user's awkwardly-bent wrist and arm to position his/her bones, muscles, and tendons in a non-aligned and unnatural position, where the stress from digging is unbalanced, poorly directed, and unhealthy. As a result, this can cause arthritis and soreness in the arm, wrist, and hand, particularly where the gardener is not a young person or is not used to substantial physical labor. According to The American College of Rheumatology, "The most common cause of tendonitis and bursitis includes injury . . . due to bad posture, or uses of the affected limb in an awkward position." (website "www.rheumatology.org", ©2000 American College of Rheumatology.) Compounding this problem is the fact that many handles are not ergonomically designed for grasping, but instead are designed using traditional cylinder shapes and sizes that are not easily grasped, are not optimally suited to assist in holding onto the tool when driving the head into the ground or when wet, and are not designed for optimal ergonomic use.

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In the Drawings:

Attached is an amended Fig. 7 which now labels the cross section as "X-X," which is referred to in the specification on page 4, line 7. No new subject matter is included.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's detailed review. The amended drawing is attached to the present papers and is prepared as a formal set of drawings.